

22 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Librarian *A/B*

SUBJECT: Expansion of OBI Activities and Publications Procurement

1. You and DAD/CR are well aware of OBI's newly-expanded activities in the NIS research program and of the substantial increase in publications support that will fall upon the Library, particularly upon Acquisitions Branch. Subsequent to the general briefing you held in your office with OBI representatives a few days ago, this Branch has been visited by various OBI staff members for exposition of their plans and requirements for publications and considerations of our support thereof.

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2. On 20 November 1961, [REDACTED] and I met with [REDACTED] Chief, Latin American Branch, OBI in my office. During the course of this detailed and very helpful discussion, [REDACTED], of his own volition, expressed very strong views that a full-time, knowledgeable RPO is required right now in Latin America. His arguments were well-reasoned and convincingly presented. It appears that [REDACTED] has had personal experience in the area from which to speak: some years ago he was in Latin America as book purchasing agent for the University of Pennsylvania. It was particularly interesting to hear him express the hope that any RPO position in Latin America, if ever available, should be filled by a CIA person.

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3. [REDACTED] did not of course speak for all of OBI. He did, however, proffer the view that his thoughts on the subject would be largely shared by the other OBI area branches, which have similar publication support needs. In citing the shortcomings of procurement activity by State personnel in the past -- it developed [REDACTED] had been an employee of State for about four years, and he spoke without any rancor -- he pointed out that there was always some pressure from INR on these field assignees for better performance and, now that INR is almost entirely out of the picture, it might be likely assumed that the service of the State PPO's would deteriorate even further for lack of this pressure.

4. I have developed this memorandum solely from the point of view that should a need ever arise, we might reasonably request a formal statement from [REDACTED], and/or from other OBI Branches, outlining their increased, urgent needs for publications support, as well as their views that CIA control and staffing of the RPO positions are most desirable if not essential. Such support from OBI may not be necessarily needed or

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even useful in effecting any agreements with State. In view of the recent transfer of OBI personnel, however, there may develop a modicum of fellowship between State and the former INR personnel which will prove helpful to us. The primary utility of such OBI response would lie in providing OCR with additional support within the Agency to buttress its contention that CIA should take over and run the PPO Program.

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[Redacted]
Chief, Acquisitions Branch

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